

Chapter 1

Vision



Chapter 1

Vision

Gorham is a small community on the northern edge of the White Mountain National Forest. Its citizens value both of those attributes. They like the small town atmosphere. It feels safe, and friendly, and is a good place to raise a family. They value the National Forest and abutting undeveloped lands, both as a location for outdoor recreation and for the scenic beauty it provides.

People are concerned about Gorham's fragile economy, however, and the recent loss of population. They understand that this places a heavy tax burden on individual homeowners, and that it forces many young people to leave the area to seek employment. They wish that both of these issues could be changed.

The vision for the future is that Gorham will work to strengthen its economy through tourism, through the development of light industry (perhaps in an industrial park), and through increased retail and commercial activity, but that it will do it in a manner that preserves the assets that the community has, that friendly, small town feeling and the beauty of its natural surroundings.

People have expressed enthusiasm for Main Street and Exchange Street as the heart of Gorham. They like the architecture there. They like the public buildings, including the Town Hall and the downtown churches and the library. They like the fact that the stores are locally owned and not national franchises. They like the Common, and the way it is a vibrant center of community activity.

In essence, Gorham is open to change, to having more business development and economic opportunity, but it is cautious that those things not disrupt the things that are already working well in the community. It is seeking a balance of those elements as it moves forward.